



**RICHARD SHUMSKY**  
Chief Probation Officer

# **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242**

**(562) 940-2501**



**August 3, 2004**

**TO: Each Supervisor**

**FROM: Richard Shumsky**  
Chief Probation Officer

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO FY 2003-04 GRAND JURY REPORT**

Attached is the Probation Department's response to the seven recommendations pertaining to our services within the Grand Jury's Fiscal Year 2003-04 report. We appreciate the Grand Jury's recognition that the facilities they inspected were generally well-managed and maintained.

If you have questions, please let me know or contact Robert Smythe of my staff at (562) 940-2516.

**C: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Children's Court**  
**Lee Baca, Sheriff**  
**Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director, Department of Health Services**  
**David Lambertson, Interim Director, Internal Services Department**  
**Darline Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education**  
**Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health**  
**Donald L. Wolfe, Interim Director, Department of Public Works**

**RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: 2003-2004 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
“JAILS COMMITTEE”  
RECOMMENDATIONS 1-7, PAGE 34**

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:**

The Probation Department should review delinquency prevention programs focused on elementary and middle school youth to provide meaningful outcome measures under the County's Performance Counts Program.

**RESPONSE:**

During fiscal year 2003-04 the Probation Department submitted a *Performance Counts!* document to the Chief Administrative Office that provides a relatively comprehensive accounting of performance measures, including the Department's prevention programs (school, park and housing-based programs) directed at elementary and middle school youth. These measures are expected to provide opportunities for meaningful outcome evaluation and program accountability for services provided throughout the Department, including services provided to youths.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:**

The Probation Department should work with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to ensure the County has an integral system to track juvenile probationers' needs and development to promote positive change.

**RESPONSE:**

The Probation Department is developing a case management system, with approval and funding provided by the CAO and the Board, that is expected to enhance our ability to track probationers' needs and thus promote positive change. We expect this system to begin operation next fiscal year.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 3:**

The Probation Department should review and analyze recidivism rates to find means of reduction.

**RESPONSE:**

The Probation Department is developing a case management system, as discussed in our response to Recommendation 2 (see above). Along with this effort we are identifying opportunities to enhance data gathering to enable greater performance analysis including evaluation of recidivism rates.

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**RECOMMENDATION NO. 4:**

The Probation Department should review capital projects with priority to camp security and safety enhancements.

**RESPONSE:**

Capital projects are prioritized based upon service needs, funding opportunities and the relative needs of each of our facilities. This process involves agency partners such as the Chief Administrative Office, the Internal Services Department, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Safety and security are among the fundamental components of capital expenditure planning.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 5:**

The Probation Department should collaborate with the Sheriff Department regarding shared resources and complementary vocational programs.

**RESPONSE:**

The Probation Department is in frequent contact with the Sheriff's management and staff. Examples of our collaborations during fiscal year 2003-04 include the issue of housing and transportation for unfit minors, Probation's updates to the Sheriff's Livescan system, and Sheriff's programs operated with Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funding administered by the Probation Department. We partner on a number of community programs including the Gang and Truancy Task Force, Interagency Gang Task Force, Gang Planning Authority, and the Safe Passages program. We will continue to work with the Sheriff to enhance opportunities for probationers and at-risk youths.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 6:**

The Probation Department should work with the Criminal Justice System to identify and adopt "best practices" for camp programs to promote positive change, reduce anti-social behavior and reduce recidivism rates.

**RESPONSE:**

The Probation Department regularly meets with criminal justice, social service, education, and community-based agencies and the courts to maintain awareness of emerging issues in areas that may benefit our operations. The Department also reviews various publications, and participates in professional organizations, sharing ideas and considering best practices for addressing anti-social and delinquent behavior.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7:

The Probation Department should prioritize maintenance schedules with the Internal Services Department and place more emphasis on the camps' physical needs.

RESPONSE:

Maintenance staff and management of both the Probation Department and Internal Services Department work as partners to ensure the physical needs of our juvenile camps are promptly addressed. We are appreciative of the Grand Jury's recognition that camps are generally well-managed and maintained facilities.

Regarding Camp Scudder, the orderliness of the dormitory and restrooms is dependent in part on the programs occurring at the time of or immediately preceding the Grand Jury's visit. We will ensure cleaning standards are maintained, regularly address these standards in unit and staff meetings, conduct documented random inspections, and assure staff accountability for appropriate conditions.

Maintenance priorities are evaluated regularly, including consideration for routine needs and emergent health and safety concerns that may arise within our camps, juvenile halls or other facilities. We will continue to collaborate with ISD to ensure these facilities provide an appropriate environment for positive change in the youths they serve.